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SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Ottawa Meeting, 1909.

THE compilation, publication and distribution of the Transactions is an important part of your secretary's business. It is often the case that papers have been read only by title before the Academy, so that the publication committee cannot pass upon them until after reading and examination. Originality and value as contributions to science must be the chief conditions of acceptance, but it has frequently happened that limitation in the size of our volume has excluded papers which would otherwise have been printed.

Until the twentieth volume was reached our Transactions were only published biennially, with a few exceptions when the earlier numbers were appendices to the reports of the secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, of which body, by the Laws of 1873, the Academy was made a "coördinate department."

The nineteenth volume, compiled by Secretary Grimsley, was unusually large and expensive, and was the last of our Transactions published under the old *régime* of state printing. This large expense was fortunate for us, as it became the basis for scaling down appropriations, and when I was told to limit the expenses to about two-thirds of the previous year's it was understood that we could get quite as much printing done with the smaller appropriation.

The long delay in the publication of papers has always been a source of annoyance to members, who have had to wait in some cases nearly two years before seeing their contributions in print. To remedy in part this delay the Printing Board was asked to honor a requisition for an annual volume under the stipulation that our printing expenses would not exceed the appropriation granted. The state printer saw in this plan convenience to his department, since it would relieve somewhat the rush of legislative years. So the next year after the nineteenth volume was issued we were able to print volume XX, and, to carry out the old plan of a biennial volume, it was

labeled "Vol. XX, Part I." The next year we had "Vol. XX, Part II," and two years ago "Vol. XXI, Part I."

On consultation with the publication committee it seemed best to abandon the biennial volume theory and to name the current number volume XXII. The precedent of an annual volume is pretty well established now and the State Printing Board has been very generous and liberal with the Academy.

Copy for the current volume was in the printer's hands about the 1st of March, but this being legislative year, there was such demand for printing that the plant was wholly unable to finish our job till November, when volume XXII was at once sent to all our members. The laws of the state and reports for the great departments must necessarily take precedence over our volume, and your secretary besieged the printing office, in endeavor to hurry up, quite as much as was consistent with good taste and prudence.

It should be remembered that we have no legal rights to demand in this matter, and our requisitions are wholly in the hands of the secretary of state, the attorney-general and the state printer, who are the Printing Board of the Executive Council. Fortunately our relations with these officers have been most pleasant, and they have done for the Academy quite as much as was to be expected.

Another want of our members is to secure "separates" of papers that are published, and as most scientific periodicals reward the writers of accepted articles with "separates," it is not generally known why we cannot have them from the state printer, even when we stand ready to pay the expense. The answer is found in a state law which forbids the printer to do custom work and requires a separate requisition for each job. Under the old law, when the state printer was best paid of all the state officers, we could and often did secure separates by payment of a small fee, but this is no longer possible, and if we want separates now we must get them at a job office. To partly meet the demand, we had this year 200 copies of the Transactions left unstitched. This enabled us to have 200 lists of members and secretary's minutes to bind in with the preliminary announcement of this meeting, which all members should have received. It also gave the same number of the memorial papers in honor of Doctor Snow, and of the retiring president's address. Besides these we could se-

cure from 100 to 200 copies of most other papers, which would sometimes have part of a page of some other paper included. If these separates were taken to a job office and bound as pamphlets the cost would be from one to four dollars for each paper, and while some are thus disposed of, a good many papers remain in my office awaiting instructions from their authors.

It should be remembered that plates for cuts and maps in our Transactions are not furnished by the state printer and have to be paid for out of the contingent fund allowed to this department. Our bill this year from the Capper Engraving Company amounted to \$105, which leaves less than \$200 for telephone, postage, express and office expenses. The expense of postage or express on each volume this year is sixteen cents, and it requires careful administration to keep our expenses within the fund.

Our current volume is so large that it seemed necessary, in order to carry out our stipulation with the state printer, to omit some pages that have been repeated substantially from year to year till they have become monotonous. These are the "Historical Sketch," the "Constitution" and "By-laws," and the lists of domestic and foreign exchanges. While this matter is important, it seemed to the publication committee sufficient that it appear at intervals of two or three years, and then perhaps in a separate pamphlet. It is quite possible that this year, judging from the papers now submitted, there may be room for the above appendices. In the announcement all members can find the secretary's minutes of the Topeka meeting, and it is unnecessary to call further attention to them.

THE LIBRARY.

The growth of our library has been largely through government publications at Washington, and through exchanges with various scientific bodies of America and foreign countries.

Our exchange list remains about as it has been and could easily be enlarged. These exchanges, coming to us, for the most part, unbound, require binding before being usable and placing on our shelves, and we have now about 500 volumes thus awaiting binding, and many of them are of great value. We receive large numbers of memoirs and bulletins from the Imperial Academy at St. Petersburg, and the yearbooks and

bulletins from Sweden and Norway are very numerous. We get regular reports of the geology and mineral resources of Australia and Tasmania, and from Chili and Argentina come reports of the minerals and natural history of those countries. Valuable reports come to us from Canada and Mexico, and especial attention is called to these rather than to those from other countries, because it is of course expected that from the various centers of Europe we should get our main supply, and such is the fact.

Our accessions during the past year have been not less than 600 unbound volumes and pamphlets and 60 bound volumes. We have also secured by purchase *Le Dictionaire De Almeida*, four volumes of *Poggendorff Biograph. Literar. Handwörterbuch*, ten parts of *North American Flora*, the *Topeka City Directory*, and *American Men of Science*.

There must come a time when the book collections of the statehouse will be consolidated under one general management, and then with wise and uniform cataloguing our libraries will have a usefulness hardly dreamed of as yet. There has been duplication and triplication of many of the publications from Washington, and if these are all bound separately for each department the state must spend money needlessly. When we consider what this money could do if used in enlarging and perfecting the library this waste of resources seems inexcusable.

We shall be in a condition a year or two hence to take a new departure, when transferred to the new building, and should have plans which look to the future. We should claim for the Academy the right of having charge of the scientific portion of the state library, of which our collection is a part. Under a law enacted for benefit of the State Historical Society, that body is entitled to demand for itself sixty bound copies of all our *Transactions*, as well as other books printed by the state, with exception of the statutes. These books the Historical Society exchanges often for the publications of foreign scientific societies which are on our list, and it creates another source of duplicate books. The Historical Society has cords of such publications, stored in closets and dark rooms, doing good to no one.

The greatest good to the state requires that each organization which is the custodian of books in the statehouse should

be governed by no idea of self-aggrandizement, but should unite in a common effort to make our state library the most important institution of its class within our borders. The only way to do this is to agitate the question and bring it before the people and then before the legislature.

There is one direction in which we can enlarge our library, which is by purchase of books not likely to be found in any other collection in the state. A small beginning was made this year, as noted above, but the committee appointed last year hesitated to buy one set authorized till the Academy should have a chance to reflect and see if this is the best thing to do.

THE MUSEUM.

The founders of this Academy, men like Snow, Mudge, Parker and Savage, were collectors, and often brought contributions which formed the nucleus of a museum. This was especially true in the years when the Academy was quartered with the State Board of Agriculture. Quite a display of natural history as well as agricultural specimens was taken to Philadelphia for the Centennial, and when brought back crowded the narrow space west of the office of the secretary of agriculture with a heterogeneous mixture more or less in charge of the Academy. When the St. Louis Exposition came, our Secretary Grimsley was given charge of the Kansas mineral exhibits, and secured from the authorities of the Exposition the transfer to our Academy of the whole mineral collection from Kansas. This was a fine foundation for an economic museum, and it seems fitting that the Academy should go on enlarging and perfecting it until it represents in a proper way the mineral resources of Kansas. Such a museum would be a great attraction in the Memorial building, but its maintenance requires direct state aid, which can be secured only by act of the legislature.

Respectfully submitted.

J. T. LOVEWELL, *Secretary.*